

PEQUOT TRAILS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY IN THE SPRING, SUMMER, FALL AND WINTER,
BY THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

Volume I

Spring, 1949

Number 1

Our First Issue

This is the first issue of a quarterly news bulletin to be issued to all Sanctuary members. Through the medium of this publication, we plan to bring a new and expanding type of service to our membership. We hope you like it.

This bulletin will include conservation news, a calendar of coming events, news about our members, Sanctuary activities and many other items we believe will be of interest to our members. We invite each of you to submit any "newsy" item that you believe to be of interest. What unusual birds have you seen? What success are you having with nesting boxes? What is the latest conservation project in your neighborhood? These, and similar items, will provide interesting reading for your fellow members. Let us hear from you.

* * *

Our First Three Years

On June 30th of this year our Sanctuary will have completed its third fiscal year. During this period we have gained wide recognition as a worthy community organization devoted to the promotion of conservation education. Like most public organizations, we started with limited facilities and personnel, nevertheless, we feel that we can be justly proud of our first three years.

The first problem that confronted us three years ago was to clear the lawns and trails that had been untouched for years. The lawns were mowed and over two miles of new trails were cut through the Sanctuary woodlands. A special Nature Trail was developed with signs and labels telling the ecological story of nature in this section of Connecticut. Numerous trees and shrubs attractive to wildlife were planted; a picnic area was made available to visitors and, with the cooperation of the Denison Society, a new parking lot has been provided.

During the spring and summer months hundreds of school children, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y.M.C.A. groups, garden clubs and service clubs have visited the Sanctuary. Some of these groups were taken on nature hikes conducted by the Curator, others toured the Nature Trail under their own leadership while still others were interested in the banding station where well over a thousand birds have been banded.

The local Girl Scout Council conducts its annual day camp on a remote section of the property.

Our educational program has included the presentation of many lectures to school classes, scout troops, garden clubs, granges, church groups, service clubs and similar organizations. Numerous field trips and lecture programs have been conducted for our adult membership.

While we are proud of these initial endeavors, we are sure that they are but a nucleus around which can be built an expanding program of conservation education.

Trailside Museum Opening

A new attraction at the Sanctuary this year will be a trailside museum. It will be housed temporarily in the old barn on the property. The development of this new nature museum is under the direction of Mr. Robert Logan, chairman of the Sanctuary museum committee.

The purpose of this museum is to serve as an educational center for all activities at the Sanctuary. Among the interesting displays and exhibits planned by Mr. Logan's committee are collections of insects, wood, wildflowers, birds nests, bird prints, minerals, sea shells and numerous other items of local natural history interest. There will be electric nature games to teach identification, habitat groups depicting plant and animal life in various types of terrain found on the Sanctuary property, bird calendars, banding records, and a large picture map showing current Sanctuary attractions. There will be books and magazines to assist in reference and identification work.

The actual setting up of a museum of this type requires many materials and exhibits. The museum committee would be grateful for gifts or loans of any of the following: aquariums, bird and wildflower prints, specimens of mounted birds, mineral collections, and any other items that would fit into a natural history museum. Anyone having such items to offer should contact either Mr. Logan at 939 Pequot Ave., New London, Conn., or Mr. McElroy at the Sanctuary.

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Long Range Program

The Executive Committee will soon release plans for a long range program extending over a period of five years. While all the details of this program are not yet available, we do know that the plan has three divisions—education, property development and a trailside museum.

In general, our program of conservation education is to be expanded so that it will provide a better service to more adult and youth organizations. Part of this educational program will be conducted at the Sanctuary and part will be conducted in the field with schools, scout groups, service clubs and other interested organizations participating.

Many improvements are planned for the property. An extensive planting program will provide trees, shrubs, and vines that will supply food and cover for wildlife. Ponds are to be enlarged so that they will be more attractive to breeding and migrating waterfowl. Plans also call for demonstration areas in modern forestry procedures, feed strips, game shelters, feeding stations, and similar projects.

Outstanding among the long range projects will be the plans and designs for a new trailside museum with adequate facilities to do a real job of education. This is one of Sanctuary's greatest needs.

Our Attitude Towards Conservation

It is a well known biological fact that mankind cannot survive without wildlife or plantlife. Yet in view of this basic realization, we in America are depleting our natural resources faster than we are replenishing them. Also, we are faced with the problem of providing for a rapidly increasing world population. If mankind is to survive and maintain his current standard of living, he must first find the answer as to how supply and demand can be maintained on an equal basis.

True, we are making a certain amount of progress towards a solution to this problem. Our government and state agencies are more concerned with conservation issues than ever before in our history. However, their funds and facilities are limited and it is a question as to whether enough can be done in the time available.

We have talked conservation in abstract terms for years. We have now reached the point where conserving what we have will not provide the answer. In addition, we must start creating. This creative approach must be made through an educated public that understands the truth and precariousness of the situation. Once this philosophy is understood, we must then sow faster than we reap.

* * *

Sanctuary Bird List

All the birds listed below were observed by the Curator on Sanctuary property. This list isn't the result of any exhaustive research. A real bird count would reveal many more species. Watch this list grow!

Chickadee	Brown Thrasher	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Towhee	Yellow-billed	Black-headed Vireo
Bluebird	Cuckoo	Barred Owl
English Sparrow	Blue-winged	Hooded Warbler
Starling	Warbler	Red-shouldered
Carolina Wren	Prairie Warbler	Hawk
Brown Creeper	Whip-poor-will	Winter Wren
Feld Sparrow	Least Flycatcher	Kingbird
Cowbird	Indigo Bunting	Red-eyed Vireo
Black Duck	Black-throated	Purple Grackle
Marsh Hawk	Green Warbler	Northern Water
White-breasted	Robin	Thrush
Nuthatch	Tree Sparrow	American Egret
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
House Wren	Blue Jay	Palm Warbler
Redstart	Flicker	Rough-winged
Chimney Swift	Song Sparrow	Swallow
Wood Thrush	Herring Gull	Woodcock
Bob White	Fox Sparrow	Broad-winged Hawk
Osprey	Purple Finch	Evening Grosbeak
White-crowned	Vesper Sparrow	Red-breasted
Sparrow	Canada Goose	Nuthatch
Parula Warbler	Killdeer	Crested Flycatcher
White-throated	Chipping Sparrow	Chestnut-sided
Sparrow	Ovenbird	Warbler
Goldfinch	Black and White	Mourning Dove
Meadowlark	Warbler	Black-crowned
Cedar Waxwing	Yellow Warbler	Night Heron
Catbird	Northern Yellow	Saw Whet Owl
Crow	Throat	Black-throated
Myrtle Warbler	Baltimore Oriole	Blue Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Green Heron	Magnolia Warbler
Pine Siskin	Ruby-throated	Barn Swallow
Golden-crowned	Hummingbird	Ruffed Grouse
Kinglet	Ruby-crowned	Red-tailed Hawk
Red-winged	Kinglet	Swamp Sparrow
Blackbird	Black-poll Warbler	Scarlet Tanager
Pigeon Hawk	Wood Pewee	Slate-colored Junco
Phoebe	Purple Martin	Sharp-skinned Hawk
Kingfisher	Tree Swallow	Blackburnian Warbler

* * *

More than 125 species of birds have been observed on the Sanctuary property.

Audubon Screen Tours



Telford H. Work to Appear in New London

New London's first Audubon Screen Tour Program, under the sponsorship of the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary and the National Audubon Society, will feature Telford H. Work in "Bits of Land Along the Coast." It will be presented in Buell Hall, Williams Memorial Institute, Sunday afternoon, March 20th, at three o'clock.

While Dr. Work and Dr. Harold M. Hill were medical students at Stanford University they made frequent trips of exploration and discovery to offshore islands of the California coast. "Bits of Land Along the Coast" is their own film record of their experiences.

This all-color film is filled with exciting scenes of our coastal wildlife. Ludicrous "sea parrots," the puffins, compete with "sea pigeons," the guillemots, for nesting burrows. Penguin-like murres crowd cormorant families for space atop precipitous heights, while raging seas below team with sea lions.

We urge all members who live within driving distance of New London to attend this afternoon of delightful entertainment. Bring your family and friends. Student and adult tickets available at the door.

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Spring Planting Time

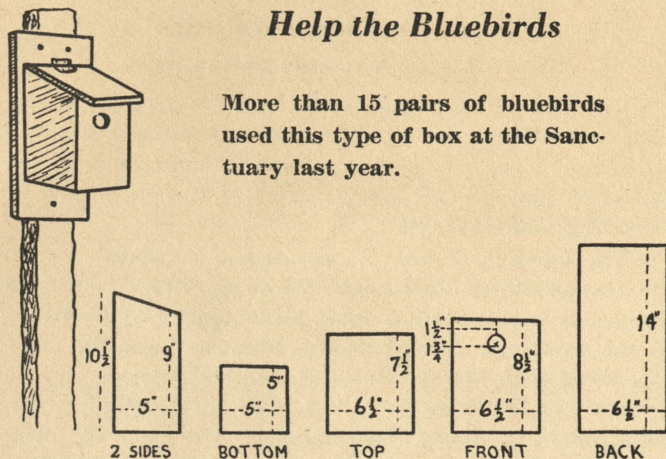
A Few Selected Shrubs Will Attract Many Birds

Are you planning to plant some trees and shrubs on your property this Spring? Why not consider the birds? A few well chosen trees and shrubs will pay large dividends in attracting an increased number and variety of birds. Fortunately, many of the trees and shrubs that provide good food and cover for wildlife are also attractive for landscaping purposes. The plants suggested in the following list have both ornamental and food producing values.

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
 Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
 Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
 Flowering Crab (*Malus floribunda*)
 White Mulberry (*Morus alba*)
 Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
 Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
 Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)
 Tatarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)
 Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos racemosus*)
 Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos vulgaris*)
 Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*)

Help the Bluebirds

More than 15 pairs of bluebirds used this type of box at the Sanctuary last year.



Bluebirds need help. The lack of natural nesting cavities and the competition from starlings and English sparrows have started a downward trend in our bluebird population. We can help them by providing nesting boxes similar to the one diagrammed above. In construction, you will notice that the upper edge of the roof is cut at an angle to fit flush with the backboard. The top of the front is cut at an angle to fit flush with the roof.

For best results, bluebird houses should be placed in the open on a post from 5 to 8 feet in height.

* * *

Time to Put Up Bird Houses

Your bird houses should be put up during the month of March. Bluebirds often have three broods a year starting their first nest in March. Last year baby bluebirds were observed in nesting boxes on the Sanctuary on March 25. Male house wrens will soon arrive and start building a series of false nests that "Mrs. Wren" will promptly tear down and rebuild upon her arrival. Phoebe's are starting to arrive from the South and will welcome a nesting shelf under the eaves of your porch or garage. Tree swallows arrive a little later and will use the same box as bluebirds. You can keep your chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers around by providing them with a rustic log-type of house.

Providing supplementary nesting materials is an added incentive for birds to nest in your garden. A crude wire basket or rack filled with short pieces of string, yarn, cotton, thread, etc., is a good way of supplying this material. Baltimore orioles, chipping sparrows, and robins will be among the various species that will use this varied assortment of nesting materials.

* * *

Your Curator is always anxious to hear what species of birds you have observed recently. Some of the interesting reports from our members about birds visiting their winter feeding stations include the following:

Mrs. Robert Erisman reports a wintering hermit thrush.

Mrs. Sidney Hatchell has been feeding a large flock of redpolls. She misses the horned larks and snow buntings that were common about her place last year.

Mrs. John B. Findlay has had bluebirds all winter. She states that they prefer bread crumbs to any other food offered.

Mrs. William Palmer reported a raven early in the winter.

Mrs. Robert Anderson has been feeding a pet ruby-crowned kinglet.

Mrs. David Duryea has also been enjoying this winter's flight of redpolls.

Sanctuary Passes 500 Mark in Membership

Eighteen States and District of Columbia Represented

During the past year the Sanctuary has passed the 500 mark in the total number of members belonging. We have members in Maine, California, Florida, Michigan, Texas, thirteen other states and the District of Columbia. However, the majority of our members reside within a 35 mile radius of the Sanctuary.

While this may seem like an impressive number, we must make every endeavor to extend our services and seek the support of a steadily increasing membership if our organization is to make an effective contribution to conservation education. There are undoubtedly many people in your neighborhood who enjoy the out-of-doors and believe in conservation. Won't you send their names and addresses to us so that we can extend them an invitation membership?

* * *

Our New Office

Thanks to the generosity of some of our members, the Sanctuary now has an office it can call its own. This new office is located above the workshop and garage. It is completed except for the installation of heating facilities.

The office is quite spacious and will provide ample room for our volunteer workers, committee and trustee meetings. It will house all our records and serve temporarily as our library. The entire room was sheathed in with celotex and painted a light aqua color. It has an entirely new floor and a new chimney was built to accommodate a heating unit.

We still need certain items of equipment to furnish the office. Some of the items we could use are office chairs, small tables, desk, drapes, rugs and filing cabinets. If you have any such articles for which you no longer have any use, we will be happy to provide them with a new home.

Calendar of Events

- March 20 —Audubon Screen Tour, Telford H. Work in "Bits of Land Along the Coast," Buell Hall, Williams Memorial Institute, New London., 3 p.m.
- April 8 —Audubon Screen Tour, Alice and Harold Allen in "Sounds of the Sageland," Stonington High School Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
- April 11 —Quarterly Trustees Meeting. 4:30 p.m. at the Sanctuary.
- May 1 —Trailside Museum and Nature Trail opens.
- May 8 —Migration Field Trip. Leave the Sanctuary at 7:00 a.m. Doughnuts and coffee.
- May 15 —Migration Field Trip. Leave the Sanctuary at 7:00 a.m. Doughnuts and coffee.
- June 5 —Wildflower Field Trip. 3:00 p.m. at Sanctuary.

Recent Books You Will Enjoy

Birds Over America by Roger Tory Peterson, Dodd, Mead & Co., New York—\$6.00.

Days Without Time by Edwin Way Teale, Dodd, Mead, & Co., New York—\$6.00.

Road to Survival by William Vogt, William Sloane and Associates, New York—\$4.00.

Flight Into Sunshine by Helen G. Cruickshank, Macmillan Co., New York—\$5.00.

Our Plundered Planet by Fairfield Osborn, Little, Brown & Co., Boston—\$2.50.

Bird Hiking by Leon Augustus Hausman, Rutgers University Press—\$2.00.

Malabar Farm by Louis Bromfield, Harper & Brothers, New York—\$3.75.

Footnotes on Nature by John Kieran, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, New York—\$3.00.

The Land and Wildlife by Edward H. Graham, Oxford University Press, New York—\$4.50.

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Acknowledgements

Our sincere appreciation is extended to the following members for their contributions to the Sanctuary:

Mr. Williams Haynes—approximately 100 natural history books.

New London County Nurseries—trees and shrubs.

Mrs. Robert O. Erisman—evergreen seedlings.

Mr. Maynard Peterson—martin box.

Mr. George B. Utter—for his generous help in clearing trails.

Dr. and Mrs. Roy Miner—desk and stove.

Denison Society—flooring in our office.

Mystic Garden Club—for their numerous gifts

To all those who contributed towards our new office.

And to all members who have contributed books, bird feed, and numerous other gifts towards our conservation program.

Bird Banding Station

Over 50 Species Banded at Sanctuary

The bird banding station is one of the greatest attractions at the Sanctuary. Visitors are fascinated by the way birds are trapped, banded, and released unharmed in the matter of minutes. To some, it is their first experience in observing many species.

The banding station is operated in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Each bird trapped is banded with a small aluminum band furnished by the government. Each band is numbered and the number, along with the species, date, sex and type of trap, is recorded in the Sanctuary files. This information is forwarded to the Fish and Wildlife Service twice a year. When a bird is retrapped by another bander, or found dead wearing a band, and the number forwarded to the Fish and Wildlife Service, a complete report is sent to the original bander and to the one who retrapped or found the bird. In this way the government can trace migration routes, population density, life histories, etc.

The following species have been banded at the Sanctuary: Myrtle warbler, black-throated green warbler, black and white warbler, black-poll warbler, magnolia warbler, palm warbler, black-throated blue warbler, redstart, ovenbird, northern water thrush, prairie warbler, gray-cheeked thrush, hermit thrush, brown thrasher, robin, song sparrow, field sparrow, white-throated sparrow, tree sparrow, fox sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, vesper sparrow, chipping sparrow, junco, red-eyed vireo, blue-headed vireo, house wren, Carolina wren, catbird, towhee, goldfinch, purple finch, phoebe, Cooper's hawk, cedar waxwing, chickadee, blue jay, white-breasted nuthatch, downy woodpecker, cow bird, red-winged blackbird, tree swallow, Baltimore oriole, indigo bunting, golden-crowned kinglet, scarlet tanager, saw-whet owl, flicker, least fly-catcher and redpolls.

SEE! HEAR! ENJOY!

Telford H. Work

in

"BITS OF LAND ALONG THE COAST"

Buell Hall — Williams Memorial Institute

New London, Conn.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 1949

3:00 P.M.

Student and adult tickets available at the door